(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received any instructions from the Election Commission in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shooting films in Kazakhastan

747. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Kazakhasthan has evinced interest in shooting films by Bollywood in that country;

(b) whether certain incentives have been offered to our film makers in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) According to information received from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), no formal proposal has been received from Kazakhastan inviting Bollywood films to shoot in that country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supreme Court and High Court Benches

748. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bar Councils of the Southern States have pleaded for establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in South India and High Court Benches in places other than the principal seats;

(b) if so, whether Government feel that such a move would greatly lessen the arrear Burden on the Supreme Court and save litigants of long travel and its cost involved presently; and

(c) if so, whether Government are likely to examine the plea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Representations are received from time to time from different sources for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court in various locations outside Delhi as well as setting up of High Court Benches in places other than the principal seats.

(b) and (c) According to article 130 of the Constitution, "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint". The Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been consistently opposed to the proposal for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court in the South and other regions of the country.

The setting up of a Bench of a High Court away from its principal seat is considered on receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government with the consent of the Chief Justice of that High Court. However, no complete proposal in this regard has been received by the Government.

Committee on judicial accountability

749. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is undertaking any study to establish a Committee to ensure judicial accountability or to deal with the allegations of corruption on the line of Peers Committee; and

(b) whether his Ministry would introduce any statute for establishing an in house procedure amongst Judiciary itself to deal with the criticism of corruption or favouritism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The enactment of statute will depend upon the final outcome of the study.